Can you believe that the holidays are near? You can give holiday cheer this season by providing Target giftcards or funds for our newly re-envisioned Holiday Cheer Campaign. Our goal is to raise $30,000 to give cheer and help create joyful memories for nearly 630 families in our housing program.

With your support, we can do it! With your gift, families have the choice on how to celebrate the holidays together, enjoying their own special traditions.

To make a Holiday Cheer gift or collect with your workplace, community, or faith group, contact development@cohdc.org or visit our website communityofhopedc.org/holidaycheer.

Each family will receive a gift card, so please consider giving in $25 or $50 increments.

Plan to do some holiday shopping? Choose Community of Hope as your selected AmazonSmile charity and a portion of your sale will benefit our work!

Also, go to www.communityofhopedc.org/wishlist to find items to help our families settle into their new homes.

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From the Desk of Kelly Sweeney McShane

Dear Friends,

2020 will be a year for the history books. Through it all, Community of Hope’s work is more important than ever! Community of Hope remains on the front lines in some of the most under-resourced communities in DC—providing quality health care and emotional wellness support for those most in need of healthcare, offering community-based COVID testing, and keeping families safely housed while helping families in shelter find employment and their own homes.

In the midst of all this, we have renewed our commitment to a bold vision that everyone in Washington, DC has good health, a stable home, family-sustaining income, and a hope-filled future. In fact, we are starting a year-long celebration of 40 years of making this vision reality for tens of thousands of DC families. We are a year into our new Strategic Plan, which includes some exciting and innovative programs. I invite you to join an upcoming series of webinars—Conversations of Hope—on October 30, November 6 and 13 to learn more about these new initiatives.

As you read our fall newsletter, be inspired by our stories of hope, exciting new partnerships, and highlights of our innovative approaches. All of this would not be possible without your generous support. Thank you!

It is an honor to serve at the helm of this anchor organization dedicated to caring, quality services for the most vulnerable in our city—particularly during these challenging times. I am proud of our impact and am excited about our bold vision for the future. With your ongoing support, we will continue to be a welcoming home for countless families for the next 40 years and beyond.

With gratitude,

Kelly Sweeney McShane, President and CEO

Connecting with You, Despite Social Distancing

This fall, gracious friends hosted virtual dinner parties with their network in lieu of our traditional Night of Hope donor reception. These mini-Nights of Hope were fun and interactive moments to learn about the mission and to give. We want to give a special thanks to our hosts, all their guests, and our sponsors.

We invite you—our funders, partners, donors, and volunteers—to a series of Conversations of Hope, webinars to learn more about Community of Hope’s most innovative initiatives.

- October 30th at 12 pm – A Bold Vision for Addressing Health Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness
- November 6th at 12 pm – A Bold Vision for Addressing the Needs of Young Parents Experiencing Homelessness
- November 13th at 12 pm – A Bold Vision for Healthy Moms and Babies in Washington, DC

Visit our website to learn more and register on the date(s) of your choice, https://www.communityofhopedc.org/conversations-hope

Hope Happenings

The Bellevue Family Success Center is Officially Open!

Community of Hope is one of 10 new Family Success Centers in Wards 7 and 8, launched on October 1 by Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Child and Family Services Agency Families First DC initiative. The Bellevue Family Success Center is located at Community of Hope’s Conway Health and Resource Center. We are proud to be a one-stop shop for Bellevue residents and other neighbors to get connected to resources we provide, a resource specialist to connect to other community supports, and more emotional wellness services including new self-care-focused partnerships. Community of Hope held a socially-distant event on August 29th where thanks to a DC Hope Grant for the Bellevue Family Success Center, we gave out over 2,000 masks and, thanks to many additional generous donors, 475 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Partnering for Better Outcomes for Moms and Babies

We are so excited to announce our transformative partnership with MedStar Health in its DC Safe Babies Safe Moms initiative, creating a holistic and integrated care model. Over the next five years, our organizations will work together to address the high maternal and infant mortality rates experienced by families in Washington, DC. The DC Safe Babies Safe Moms initiative at MedStar Health, made possible by an investment from the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, brings together nationally recognized experts and care in the fields of women’s health, family medicine, behavioral health, and pediatrics. Community of Hope is grateful to MedStar Health and the Clark Foundation for their generous commitment to ensure pregnant families in DC—regardless of their neighborhood or insurance—will have more integrated health care solutions. We look forward to building this new partnership to help moms and babies stay healthy for years to come.

Golf Fore A Cause

In August, Palmer Properties Group and Balaram Owens of RLAH Real Estate hosted Golf “Fore” A Cause, which benefitted Community of Hope. While remaining socially distant, golf enthusiasts and supporters were able to network and golf while raising funds and awareness to further the mission of Community of Hope. Thank you, PPG and Balaram Owens, for supporting our families. We look forward to a continued impactful relationship!

In 2015, Community of Hope created the Tom Nees Award for Exceptional Service to recognize its recipient for their long-standing, deeply-impacting service to the women, men, and children who turn to Community of Hope for help. This year, we are presenting this award posthumously to J. Yost Conner, Jr.

In about 2008, as Community of Hope was undertaking an ambitious goal of building what is now the Conway Health and Resource Center (CHRC), we were connected with Yost—thanks to the assistance of the DC Bar Pro Bono Center. Then a partner at Patton Boggs (now Squire Patton Boggs), Yost worked hand in hand with me for over a decade on every aspect of real estate law as we built CHRC as well as in taking on additional smaller real estate issues along the way. Because of the thousands of hours of work that Yost dedicated in service to Community of Hope, we have provided quality medical, dental, and behavioral health services to thousands of people at our Ward 8 location. During our work together, Yost shared that he was a survivor of cancer, which is why our work always meant so much to him. Yost knew that access to healthcare is so much more challenging for those without resources and in under-resourced communities. Unfortunately, Yost passed away from cancer on April 12, 2020. At the celebration of his life, his family all told me that one of the things Yost was most proud of was his work at Community of Hope.

Yost’s favorite motto was “Don’t Postpone Joy.” That phrase has really resonated with me, especially in these times, and I have shared them with many others on our staff. Community of Hope will be forever grateful to Yost. His work, words, and impact will continue to ripple outward for many years to come—even to those who never knew him.